

CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

5 1. A method of enabling phone number portability between wireline to wireless and wireless to wireless systems comprising the steps of:

- (a) process of validating a subscriber's information;
- (b) process of enabling a subscriber to purchase a plan and phone;
- (c) process of transporting to a subscriber a phone and plan information.

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2. The method of claim 1 where the validation process further comprises the steps of:

- (a) subscriber first decides to change carriers;
- (b) subscriber completes a validation questionnaire;
- (c) submitting questionnaire for validation and the subscriber information is validated;
- (d) if validation is unsuccessful the user must re-enter the information and restart the process or end the process;
- (e) if validation is successful the subscriber is informed of any outstanding requirements, fees, and counteroffers;
- (f) subscriber decides whether to continue with the transaction and purchase, end the transaction, or accept any potential counter offers;

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3. The method of claim 2 where the purchase process further comprises the steps of:

- (a) After completion of the validation process the subscriber begins the purchase

process by first being presented with available plans and features from other carriers with the recommendation being made;

- (b) subscriber chooses a new plan and features from the new carrier;
- (c) subscriber then decides whether to purchase a new phone;
- 5 (d) if the subscriber elects to purchase a new phone they are presented with a list of available phones from the new carrier and then choose their new phone;
- (e) if the subscriber does not elect to purchase a new phone then they must complete a compatibility phone questionnaire;
- 10 (f) next the subscriber's phone is checked for compatibility with the carrier and a compatibility decision is made;
- (g) if the subscriber's phone is not compatible they are informed and are presented with available phones from the new provider;
- (h) if the subscriber's phone is compatible present purchase details are presented to the subscriber for review;
- 15 (i) purchase is confirmed and the user continues with activation and cancellation request or returns to choose a new if they elect not to confirm their current selection;
- (j) new phone purchase decision is analyzed and if a new phone is not purchased the subscriber proceeds immediately to the transport process;
- 20 (k) if a new phone is purchased a submission is made to the new carrier to fulfill order and confirmation is provided to the subscriber.

4. The method of claim 3 where the transport process further comprises the steps of:

- (a) the transport process starts when the subscriber has a compatible phone on hand;
- (b) if the subscriber does not have the phone on hand they are first asked if they purchased a new phone;
- (c) if they have a confirmation number and order status update is provided and the transport process ends until a phone is received;
- 5 (d) if the subscriber had not purchased a phone they are asked if they wishes to purchase a phone at this point, if the subscriber wishes to purchase a phone they is directed to the purchase process but if subscriber chooses not to purchase a phone at this time the transport process ends;
- 10 (e) if the subscriber has a phone the cancellation request is submitted and the activation process begins;
- (f) the activation and cancellation must be approved if it is not approved the subscriber is informed of the non-approval and the transport process ends, if it is approved the subscriber is informed of approval and all costs associated with the transaction;
- 15 (g) the subscriber must decide whether to complete the transaction, if the subscriber elects to complete the transaction the activation and cancellation requests are submitted and a confirmation is generated upon completion and the new and old carriers will bill subscriber directly, if the subscriber elects not to complete the transaction they is still able to accept any counter offers or select a new plan, if the subscriber does not wish to accept any other offers then the transport process ends, but if a new offer is accepted then the user must return to the validation process.

5. A method of enabling phone number portability of new wireless number comprising the steps of:

- (a) process of validating a subscriber's information;
- (b) process of enabling a subscriber to purchase a plan and phone;
- 5 (c) process of transporting to a subscriber a phone and plan information.

6. The method of claim 5 where the validation process further comprises the steps of:

- (a) customer first decides to purchase a new wireless number;
- (b) subscriber completes a validation questionnaire;
- 10 (c) validation questionnaire is then submitted for validation and the subscriber information is validated;
- (d) if validation is unsuccessful the user must re-enter the information and restart the process or end the process, if validation is successful the customer continues to the purchase process.

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7. The method of claim 6 where the purchase process further comprises the steps of:

- (a) customer begins the purchase process by first being presented with available number, the numbers can be carrier specific or carrier-free;
- (b) customer chooses a number and new plan from the carrier;
- 20 (c) customer is presented with the opportunity to purchase a new phone and if they elects to purchase a new phone, the customer is immediately presented with a list of available phones and then the customer makes a phone selection, if the customer does not elect to purchase a new phone then they must complete a

compatibility phone questionnaire

- (d) the customer's phone is checked for compatibility with the new carrier and a compatibility decision is made;
- (e) if the customer's phone is not compatible they are informed and are presented with available phones from the provider, if the customer's phone is compatible present purchase details are presented to the customer for review;
- 5 (f) the purchase is confirmed and the user continues with activation and cancellation request;
- (g) new phone purchase decision is analyzed, if a new phone is not purchased the method of new phone portability proceeds immediately to the transport process;
- 10 (h) if a new phone is purchased a submission is made to the new carrier to fulfill order and confirmation is provided to the customer.

8. The method of claim 7 where the transport process further comprises the steps of:

- 15 (a) transport process starts when the customer has a compatible phone on hand;
- (b) if the customer does not have the phone on hand they are first asked if a new phone was purchased;
- (c) if customer has phone on hand, a confirmation number and order status update is provided and the transport process ends until a phone is received;
- 20 (d) if the subscriber had not purchased a phone they are asked if they wish to purchase a phone at this point, if the subscriber wishes to purchase a phone they are directed to the purchase process but if they choose not to purchase a phone at this time the transport process ends;

(e) if the customer has a phone the prepared activation request is submitted for approval and an approval decision is made;

(f) if not approved the subscriber is informed of the non-approval and the transport process ends, if approved the customer is informed of approval and all costs associated with the transaction;

5 (g) the customer must then decide to continue or terminate the transaction, if the customer does not wish to complete the transaction that can decide to select a new number or carrier and return to the purchase process or end the process, if the customer wishes to continue the transaction an activation request is submitted and a confirmation is issued upon approval and new carrier will bill the customer directly.

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9. A method of enabling phone number portability of phone numbers utilizing an auction or sale process comprising the steps of:

15 (a) process of validating a seller's information;

(b) process of validating a buyer's information;

(c) process of enabling a seller to purchase a plan and phone;

(d) process of enabling a buyer to purchase a plan and phone;

(e) process of transporting to a buyer or seller a phone and plan information.

20 10. The method of claim 9 where the seller's validation process further comprises the steps of:

(a) seller first decides to auction or sell their number;

(b) seller completes a validation questionnaire;

(c) validation questionnaire is then submitted for validation and the seller information is validated;

5 (d) if validation is unsuccessful the seller must re-enter the information and restart the process or end the process, if the validation is successful the seller is informed of outstanding requirements;

(e) after successful validation and the seller enters an auction and lists sale requirements;

10 (f) seller then reviews information and then has the option to approve or disapprove the entry;

(g) if the seller disapproves the entry, seller may return and change the auction and sale requirements, if the seller approves the entry the number is posted for;

(h) seller then enters the purchase process and waits for a buyer.

15 11. The method of claim 10 where the buyer's validation process further comprises the steps of:

(a) buyer first decides to purchase a number;

(b) buyer completes a validation questionnaire;

(c) validation questionnaire is then submitted for validation and the buyer information is validated, if validation is unsuccessful the user must re-enter the information and restart the process or end the process, if validation is successful the customer continues to the purchase process.

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12. The method of claim 10 or 11 where the purchase process further comprises the steps of:

- (a) buyer is presented with available numbers;
- (b) buyer then purchases or places a bid for the number, if the buyer loses, they are informed of the loss and then may wish to make another bid or end the process;
- 5 (c) if the buyer is received notification of a winning bid or purchase they then chooses plan features from the carrier;
- (d) if a phone was included in the auction the buyer immediately is presented with the details of his purchase for review;
- 10 (e) if no phone was included with the auction the buyer will either be presented with available phones from the carriers or to complete a compatibility phone questionnaire for a buyer's existing phone.
- (f) the buyer's phone is checked for compatibility with the new plan and a compatibility decision is made;
- 15 (g) if the buyer's phone is not compatible they are informed and are presented with available phones from the provider, if the customer's phone is compatible present purchase details the buyer selects the phone and purchase details are presented to the buyer for review;
- (h) present purchase details are reviewed by the buyer
- (i) the purchase is confirmed or denied;
- 20 (j) If the purchase is denied the buyer still has the option to choose plan features from a carrier, if the purchase is confirmed a cancellation activation request for the seller is prepared;
- (k) seller cancellation request is submitted to carrier and the carrier is informed of the

new number assignment;

- (l) activation is then cancelled or approved,
- (m) if the activation is not approved the buyer and seller are informed of the non-approval and the process ends, if the activation is approved the phone is purchased if required and the carrier is notified of the purchase for fulfillment;
- (n) confirmation is then provided to the buyer and the transport process is initiated.

13. The method of claim 12 where the transport process further comprises the steps of:

- (a) the transport process starts by determining whether the buyer has a compatible phone on hand;
- (b) if the buyer does not have the phone on hand they are first asked if they purchased a new phone, if they have a confirmation number an order status update is provided and the transport process ends until a phone is received, if the buyer had not purchased a phone they are asked if they wish to purchase a phone at this point; if the buyer wishes to purchase a phone they are directed to the purchase process but if they choose not to purchase a phone at this time the transport process ends;
- (c) if the buyer has a phone the cancellation request is submitted and the activation process begins;
- (d) the application and cancellation must be submitted for approval, if the application is not approved the buyer is informed of the non-approval and the transport process ends, if it is approved the subscriber is informed of approval and all costs associated with the transaction;

- (e) an activation request is submitted and the activation is confirmed;
- (f) the new carrier will bill the buyer directly.

14. The method of claims 1-13 further comprising:

the ability to process number portability transactions that are not related directly
5 through any specific carriers.

15. The method of claims 5-8 further comprising:

the ability for a user to choose a desired phone number, of which the phone
numbers could be carrier-specific or carrier-free when purchasing wireless
services.

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